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Rep. Beard Wins A Decision on Leaking Charge

Associated Press

Rep. Robin L. Beard (R-Tenn.) won a preliminary decision yesterday against a charge that he leaked classified information about Soviet missile operations, but he may face further investigation.

Rep. Samuel S. Stratton (D-N.Y.), chairman of the House Armed Services investigations subcommittee, said a staff inquiry determined that the information that Beard, a subcommittee member, had disclosed had "not" been given to the House Armed Services Committee.

Stratton said his only concern was whether classified information had been leaked from the committee, and the investigation showed that it had not.

However, Stratton said the House Intelligence Committee has been notified in case it wants to investigate whether the information Beard disclosed was, even so, classified.

Rep. Bob Carr (D-Mich.) had filed a charge that Beard, one of the harshest congressional critics of leaks about the Pentagon's Stealth technology, had issued a news release Sept. 18 based on classified information "furnished him with a clear understanding of its classified nature."

"He's a liar," Beard said Tuesday of Carr.

Beard said he did not know the information was classified. He said he got it from a congressional employee.

he will not identify who told him the information would be in an Aviation Week magazine article then being written.

"It did not occur to me that it would be classified," he said.

Beard said his purpose in airing the information was to criticize what he thought were Soviet violations of arms limitation treaties and to ask the Armed Services Committee to investigate them.